



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/509,383	05/27/2005	Minoru Yamamoto	121278	5078
25944	7590	03/08/2006	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			WILLIAMS, KEVIN D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2854	

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/509,383

Applicant(s)

YAMAMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Kevin D. Williams

Art Unit

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3 and 5-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 September 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/28/05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sasaki (US 6,561,506).

With respect to claims 1 and 5, Sasaki teaches a printer comprising: a sheet supply unit (Fig. 42; 391) in which a stack of sheets can be set; a pickup roller 21 which contacts and drives one side of the stack of sheets set in the sheet supply unit and thereby feeds each sheet toward a printing unit; and a cover (Fig. 42; bottom side of case 391) which covers the other side of the stack of sheets set in the sheet supply unit, characterized in that a forcible curling unit (Fig. 42) which forcibly curls the sheets set in the sheet supply unit in a sheet width direction is provided, the sheets being set in the sheet supply unit in the form of a sheet package including a package member 391 containing the sheets.

With respect to claim 6, Sasaki teaches a sheet supply unit 391 in which a stack of sheets can be set; a pickup roller 21 which contacts and drives one side of the stack of sheets set in the sheet supply unit and thereby feeds each sheet toward a printing unit; and a sheet separation unit 62 provided on a downstream side of the sheet supply unit in a sheet feed direction, characterized in that a forcible curling unit (Fig. 42) which forcibly curls the sheets in a sheet width direction at a position immediately before the sheet separation unit is provided.

With respect to claim 7, Sasaki teaches a sheet feeding mechanism, comprising: a sheet supply unit 391 in which a stack of sheets can be set; a pickup roller 21 which contacts and drives one side of the stack of sheets set in the sheet supply unit and thereby feeds each sheet toward a printing unit; a sheet separation unit 62 placed on a downstream side of the sheet supply unit in a sheet feed direction; and a forcible curling unit (Fig. 42) which forcibly curls the sheets set in the sheet supply unit in a sheet width direction.

3. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takashi (JP 3095029).

With respect to claim 6, Takashi teaches a sheet supply unit 22 in which a stack of sheets can be set; a pickup roller 26 which contacts and drives one side of the stack of sheets set in the sheet supply unit and thereby feeds each sheet toward a printing unit; and a sheet separation unit 27 provided on a downstream side of the sheet supply unit in a sheet feed direction, characterized in that a forcible curling unit 36 which

Art Unit: 2854

forcibly curls the sheets in a sheet width direction at a position immediately before the sheet separation unit is provided.

With respect to claim 7, Takashi teaches a sheet feeding mechanism, comprising: a sheet supply unit 22 in which a stack of sheets can be set; a pickup roller 26 which contacts and drives one side of the stack of sheets set in the sheet supply unit and thereby feeds each sheet toward a printing unit; a sheet separation unit 27 placed on a downstream side of the sheet supply unit in a sheet feed direction; and a forcible curling unit 36 which forcibly curls the sheets set in the sheet supply unit in a sheet width direction.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 3, and 5 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto (US 6,082,913) in view of Takashi (JP 3095029).

Yamamoto teaches a printer comprising: a sheet supply unit 12 in which a stack of sheets can be set; a pickup roller 24 which contacts and drives one side of the stack of sheets set in the sheet supply unit and thereby feeds each sheet toward a printing unit; and a cover 12a which covers the other side of the stack of sheets set in the sheet

Art Unit: 2854

supply unit, wherein the sheets are set in the sheet supply unit in the form of a sheet package including a package member containing the sheet.

Yamamoto does not teach a forcible curling unit which forcibly curls the sheets set in the sheet supply unit in a sheet width direction is provided, where the forcible curling unit includes a rib which is provided inside the sheet supply unit to protrude toward the cover so that a tip of the rib will press the stack of sheets set in the sheet supply unit at its central part in regard to the sheet width direction.

Takashi teaches a printer comprising a forcible curling unit 36 which forcibly curls the sheets set in the sheet supply unit in a sheet width direction is provided, where the forcible curling unit includes a rib 36 which is provided inside the sheet supply unit to protrude toward the cover so that a tip of the rib will press the stack of sheets set in the sheet supply unit at its central part in regard to the sheet width direction.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Yamamoto to have the forcible curling unit as taught by Takashi, in order to prevent the bias travel of the recording media.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 2 and 4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The primary reason for the indication of the allowability of claim 2 is the limitation of the forcible curling unit including ribs which are provided to the cover to protrude toward the pickup roller so that tips of the ribs will press the stack of sheets at both sides, in combination with the other claimed language.

The primary reason for the indication of the allowability of claim 4 is the limitation of the cover having pressing means, and the forcible curling unit including ribs which are provided to the pressing means to protrude toward the pickup roller so that tips of the ribs will press the stack of sheets at both sides, in combination with the other claimed language.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin D. Williams whose telephone number is (571) 272-2172. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew H. Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

Art Unit: 2854

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KDW

February 27, 2006



ANDREW H. HIRSHFELD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800